



HEALTHY WASHINGTON INITIATIVE

Our success as a state depends on healthy citizens. With a healthy foundation, we can improve the quality of our lives, further our economic well-being, and strengthen our communities.

Complex health care issues require a broad-based and collaborative approach. That's why Governor Gregoire co-chaired the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access.

GOALS

The Blue Ribbon Commission has provided a roadmap for substantially improving access to affordable health care for all Washingtonians during the next five years.

- All Washingtonians will have access to health care coverage by 2012;
- All children will have access to health care coverage by 2010;
- Washington will be one of the top ten healthiest states in the nation; and
- The rate of increase in total health care spending will be no more than the rate of growth in personal income.

Governor Gregoire is introducing legislation and making strategic investments to implement the Blue Ribbon recommendations and reach these goals.

A HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Every dollar we spend on health care should go toward the most appropriate, highest quality treatment. Information technology, best practices and incentives can help us choose which treatments will best improve our health. Governor Gregoire proposes to invest in health information technology to give patients and providers better access to medical records. She is also funding better care management programs to help people struggling with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, asthma and congestive heart failure.



Because only half of all emergency room visits are for urgent or emergent care, Governor Gregoire's proposal will track unnecessary emergency room visits, design demonstration projects to reduce those unnecessary visits, and prioritize funding to community health clinics that successfully do so.

Governor Gregoire's proposal will establish a Washington Quality Forum to address why patients receive different kinds of treatment depending on where they live, and it will implement a health information system that can exchange patient records statewide. Agencies will develop a five-year plan for changing how they reimburse doctors to reward health outcomes. Patients will have more information about the tradeoffs of different treatment options. And there will be accountability and performance measures for public health funding

AFFORDABLE INSURANCE & ACCESS TO CARE

Washington has the second highest number of temporary employees in the nation, and firms with high numbers of part-time or temporary employees are less likely to offer health benefits. Governor Gregoire's proposal will create a Washington Health Insurance Connector to make it easy for individuals to keep insurance when they move or change jobs, and to help employers contribute what they can.

Because those ages 19 to 25 account for nearly 30 percent of uninsured people in Washington, Governor Gregoire's proposal will extend health coverage for dependents up to age 25. The state will also look for ways to partner with the federal government to expand coverage in Medicaid and the Basic Health Plan, and pilot Health Opportunity Accounts to encourage personal responsibility.

Governor Gregoire will create a new, coordinated program that expands the WSU Nursing School in Spokane, as well as the UW Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, to fill a critical need for doctors, dentists

and nurses in rural areas of the state. The state also proposes to partner with local organizations, such as the Puget Sound Health Alliance, to provide cost and quality information so that people can make informed decisions about their health care.



A HEALTHY NEXT GENERATION

Healthy children learn better, grow better, and have a better chance to succeed in life. Governor Gregoire is providing health insurance access to 32,000 more children and is increasing reimbursement rates for doctors who treat those children. She has also

proposed to expand the childhood vaccination program so that our children stay healthy.

PREVENTION & HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

The Centers for Disease Control says that, of the four factors influencing human health – healthy behavior, the environment, genes and medical care – healthy behaviors and prevention account for 51 percent of our well-being. Our bodies need exercise, good food, early detection and preventive maintenance. Governor Gregoire proposes to promote prevention in state programs and to encourage healthy food choices and physical activity in our schools. She's also making targeted investments to strengthen our public health system to ensure personal responsibility for healthy choices.

MOVING FORWARD

With targeted investments of over \$142 million, Governor Gregoire's proposal builds on the foundation of the Blue Ribbon Commission's five-year plan to improve the health of all Washingtonians. With this plan and this proposal, we will provide higher-quality, more affordable health care to more people.